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CLAIMS

1. A control method of controlling a network system including at least one image forming apparatus 5 having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, at least one information processing apparatus, a server apparatus, connected to each other via a network, the control 10 method comprising:

an agency request command-transmitting step of causing the image forming apparatus to transmit to the server apparatus an agency request command for requesting the server apparatus to respond to a status 15 request, on behalf of the image forming apparatus, when the image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

a first status transmitting step of causing the image forming apparatus to transmit a latest status of 20 the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus when the image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

a second status transmitting step of causing the image forming apparatus to transmit a changed status of 25 the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus when there is a change in the status of the image forming apparatus in the reduced power consumption mode;

a status request-receiving step of causing the server apparatus to receive a status request sent from the information processing apparatus to the image forming apparatus, on behalf of the image forming apparatus; and

a status request-responding step of causing the server apparatus to respond to the information processing apparatus in response to the status request, based on the status received beforehand from the image forming apparatus.

2. A control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second changed status transmitting step comprises:

a temporary returning step of causing the image forming apparatus to temporarily return from the reduced power consumption mode to the normal standby mode when there is a change in the status of the image forming apparatus in the reduced power consumption mode;

a status updating step of causing the image forming apparatus to transmit an updated status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus; and

a reduced power consumption mode re-shifting step of causing the image forming apparatus to again shift to the reduced power consumption mode after the updated status of the image forming apparatus is transmitted to the server apparatus.

3. A control method as claimed in claim 1,

5 further comprising a return command-transmitting step of causing the server apparatus to transmit a command for causing the image forming apparatus to return from the reduced power consumption mode to the normal standby mode, when the server apparatus has received a job execution request from the information processing apparatus.

4 10 A network system including at least one image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, at least one information processing apparatus, and a server apparatus, connected to each other via a network, wherein:

15 20 said image forming apparatus transmits to said server apparatus an agency request command for requesting said server apparatus to respond to a status request, on behalf of said image forming apparatus, and a latest status of said image forming apparatus, when said image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

25 said server apparatus receives the status request sent from said information processing apparatus to said image forming apparatus, on behalf of said image forming apparatus, and responds to said information processing apparatus in response to the status request, based on the status received beforehand from said image forming

apparatus; and

 said image forming apparatus transmits a changed status thereof to said server apparatus when there is a change in the status of said image forming apparatus in 5 the reduced power consumption mode.

5. A network system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said image forming apparatus temporarily returns to the normal standby mode when said image forming apparatus has detected a change in the status thereof in 10 the reduced power consumption mode, and after transmitting the changed status to said server apparatus, said image forming apparatus again shifts to the reduced power consumption mode.

6. An image forming apparatus image connected to 15 a server apparatus via a network, and having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, comprising:

 a detecting device that detects a status of the 20 image forming apparatus;

 a communication device that communicates with the server apparatus; and

 a control device that causes said communication device to transmit to the server apparatus an agency 25 request command for requesting the server apparatus to respond to a status request, on behalf of the image forming apparatus, and a latest status of the image

forming apparatus detected by said detecting device, when the image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

wherein said control device is responsive to
5 detection of a change in the status of the image forming apparatus by said detecting device in the reduced power consumption mode, for causing said communication device to transmit a changed status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus.

10 7. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said control device is responsive to detection of a change in the status of the image forming apparatus in the reduced power consumption mode, for causing the image forming apparatus to temporarily
15 return to the normal standby mode, and after causing said communication device to transmit the changed status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus, causing the image forming apparatus to again shift to the reduced power consumption mode.

20 8. A control method of controlling an image forming apparatus connected to a server apparatus via a network, and having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, the control
25 method comprising:

a detecting step of detecting a status of the image forming apparatus;

an agency requesting step of transmitting to the server apparatus an agency request command for requesting the server apparatus to respond to a status request, on behalf of the image forming apparatus, when 5 the image forming apparatus shifts to the reduced power consumption mode;

a status transmitting step of transmitting a latest status of the image forming apparatus detected in said detecting step; and

10 a status updating step of transmitting a changed status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus when a change in the status of the image forming apparatus is detected in the reduced power consumption mode in said detecting step.

15 9. A control method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a mode changing step of causing the image forming apparatus to temporarily return to the normal standby mode when a change in the status of the image forming apparatus is detected in the reduced power 20 consumption mode, transmit the changed status of the image forming apparatus to the server apparatus, and then again shift to the reduced power consumption mode.

10. A control method of controlling a server apparatus connected via a network to an image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, comprising:

an agency request-receiving step of receiving a request command sent from the image forming apparatus, for requesting the server apparatus to receive a status request sent from an information processing apparatus 5 connected to the network, to the image forming apparatus, on behalf of the image forming apparatus;

a status receiving step of receiving a status of the image forming apparatus from the image forming apparatus;

10 a status request-accepting step of accepting the status request from the image forming apparatus, on behalf of the image forming apparatus; and

15 a status responding step of responding to the information processing apparatus in response to the status request, based on the status received beforehand from the image forming apparatus.

11. A control method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a start request command-transmitting step of transmitting to the image forming apparatus a 20 command for requesting the image forming apparatus to return from the reduced power consumption mode to the normal standby mode, when the server apparatus has received a command which cannot be executed without causing the image forming apparatus to return from the 25 reduced power consumption mode to the normal standby mode.

12. A control method as claimed in claim 11,

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further comprising a retransmission requesting step of transmitting to the information processing apparatus a command retransmission request for requesting the information processing apparatus to again transmit the 5 status request, when the server apparatus has received information indicating that the image forming apparatus has returned from the reduced power consumption mode to the normal standby mode.